

CONFIDENTIAL

29 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Gerry Zeisman, Staff Advisor
to Representative Peter Rodino (D., N.J.), on the
Green Beret Case

1. Mr. Gerry Zeisman called me this morning, obviously concerned about the Benjamin Welles article on the Green Beret case in this morning's New York Times. He said he had not spoken to Mr. Rodino today but was sure the Congressman would be concerned about the article when he saw it. Mr. Zeisman said Mr. Rodino had hoped, as he told Mr. Maury in their last meeting, that the situation would not develop to the point where people started taking sides. Mr. Zeisman regards the Times article as inflammatory and very unfortunate.

2. In response to his questions, I told Mr. Zeisman that I did not know the source of the Welles article and I pointed to Welles' carefully worded comment about the source of his information. I told him that I, personally, was not aware that any briefing had been given. I advised him that the Director was presently out of town and would not return until Tuesday.

3. Mr. Zeisman said he had been getting reports that "this whole thing is being pushed by the South Vietnamese Government." I, of course, made no comment on this. He then asked if I was "making any book on the outcome of this situation." I said this was a matter for the military to decide and Zeisman said, of course, he understood. I then asked him if he was making any book on the outcome. His only comment was that, naturally, from their standpoint they thought the best solution to the whole unfortunate situation would be for the Army to drop the charges.

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4. Mr. Zeisman closed the conversation by saying he hoped to have a quiet weekend. He said Mr. Rodino was expected back in town on Wednesday and that he (Mr. Zeisman) would probably be in touch with Mr. Maury on Tuesday.

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